

REPRESENTATIVES OF WILLIAM SLAUGHTER.

MAY 10, 1842.

Read, and laid upon the table.

Mr. HALL, from the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, submitted the following

REPORT :

*The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to which was referred the petition of the representatives of William Slaughter, submit the following report :*

The petitioners claim the commutation pay of a lieutenant of the Virginia continental line for the services of William Slaughter, who is alleged to have been a supernumerary officer of 1781.

John Roberts, who was a major of the convention guards, testifies, in 1838, that William Slaughter enlisted as a private in said regiment in the latter part of the year 1778, was made an ensign in August, 1779, and served as such until the regiment was discharged, in May, 1781, when he became supernumerary.

By a certificate from the auditor of Virginia, it appears that William Slaughter made a settlement with Virginia for his services on the 20th of February, 1784, and was paid for a service as ensign from October 25, 1779, to the 13th of August, 1780. As it is to be presumed that Ensign Slaughter would, in 1784, have claimed and received all the pay that was due him, this certificate is deemed better evidence of his service than the recollection of Major Roberts, after a lapse of nearly sixty years. Having left the service before the passage of the half-pay resolutions of October 21, 1780, he could have no claim to commutation.

But if he had served until May, 1781, as stated by Major Roberts, his claim would be invalid. The regiment to which he belonged was a *State*, and not a *continental* regiment; and the officers were not, under any circumstances, entitled to commutation. (For an account of this regiment, see report No. 436, 1st session 26th Congress, page 43; also, reports of this session, in the cases of Francis Taylor, colonel of the regiment, No. 400, and of Major John Roberts, No. 541.)

The committee recommend that the claim be rejected.

